COMMANDERS DIGEST

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DOCUMENTS SECTION

Defense Issues Statement On Troop Deployment Plans

Defense Department has pointed out there has been no reduction in any program of troop deployments or no plan to level off troop commitments below previously approved programs.

Moreover, Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara believes the deployment planning figures in the FY 1968 budget represent at this time a proper balance of military, economic, political and sociological considerations.

DOD made this statement March 23, explaining it had been asked for comments regarding troop deployments which are included in Senate Armed Services' Preparedness Investigation Subcommittee report.

DOD gave a resume of meetings beginning in early summer of 1966 and running into November on future planning figures for deployment of U.S. military personnel to South Vietnam as relating to FY 1968 budget decisions.

These discussions involved, at one time or the other, Secretary McNamara, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, CINCPAC's Adm. U. S. G. Sharp, and COMUSMACV's Gen. William C. Westmoreland.

DOD said that three force level plans were considered by the Secretary of Defense and other participants in November at Honolulu and that the Secretary approved the figures which were later included in the FY 1968 budget.

"The Secretary of Defense emphasized to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that this approved figure was based on the present situation and made it clear that additional troops would be provided if there were need for more," DOD said.

The statement said, "Gen. Westmoreland reserves the right to request additional troops if the military outlook changes and that the Secretary of Defense insists that Gen. Westmoreland exercise that right."

DOD said plans beyond December 1967 are still tentative and will depend on how the situation evolves over the next 12 months.

"The budgeted strength figure for U.S. military personnel in South Vietnam for mid-1967 is 96 percent of the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommendation," the statement said.

TEACHERS WITH EXPERIENCE—With months of combat rescue operations behind them, four former members of the Vietnam-based Jolly Green Giants are presently serving as instructors with the Combat Crew Training School for Aircrew Recovery at Eglin AFB, Fla. Discussing flight plans are (left to right) SSgt. Harold R. Schrader, SSgt. Frank I. Clubb, Lt. Col. Baylor R. Haynes and Capt. James L. Buters.

U.S. Officials Summarize Guam Conference Discussions

Allied military forces in South Vietnam in the months ahead will emphasize destruction of enemy base camps and acceleration of the pacification program, U.S. officials said in summing up the recent Guam conference on the Vietnam Conflict.

Coming operations against base camps will be difficult and time consuming, U.S. officials said, pointing to such complicating factors as booby traps, heavy camouflage, tunnels and frequent camp locations in dense jungles and heavy forests.

U.S. officials summed up these points discussed:

- Pacification is showing progress, with 50 ARVN battalions assigned to this role, more to be trained and assigned this year, and with 18 percent more roads open this year compared to last year.
- Enemy losses are up 60 percent this year, defections 100 percent higher, along with existence of serious food and ammunition shortages.
- Evidence of friction among North Vietnamese and Viet Cong has come up on tactics and supplies.
- Misinformation by VC commanders to Hanoi on the fighting, with the distortion between 20-1 to 40-1.
- No signs from Hanoi of any lack of will to fight.

Washington Memos

VADM. FREDERICK L. Ashworth, USN, Commander Sixth Fleet and Commander Strike Force South, will assume duties as Deputy to Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. RAdm. William I. Martin, Assistant Chief of Naval Operations for Air, will relieve Admiral Ashworth some time in April.

DOD STATISTICS SHOW that 8,286 U. S. service personnel lost their lives in Vietnam through hostile actions from Jan. 1, 1961 through March 18, 1967. Additionally, 1,780 lost their lives from non-hostile causes.

STRIKE COMMAND MANEUVER Kitty Hawk is scheduled for August to test simultaneous Marine Corps landing on the North Carolina sea coast and Army airborne drops further inland with both forces hooking up. Navy and Air Force tactical aircraft will cover all operations during the eight-day maneuver. In all, about 70,000 men will be involved.

A $1.6 MILLION fixed price contract for fire control assembly component parts for Army's M60 tank is being awarded. The Chicago Procurement Detachment, Chicago, is issuing the contract to Airtronics International Corp., a small business firm, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

ADDITIONAL ENLISTED WAF are needed for duty with Headquarters, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam. WAF volunteers for the Saigon duty must be in grade E-4 through E-6 and in the administrative or stenographic career fields. Interested WAF should contact unit personnel officers for application procedures. Selected WAF will be subject to the same qualifications as required of male airmen assigned to Southeast Asia.

SPECIAL DIPLOMAS AND Nuclear Reactor Operator Basic Badges were awarded 46 Army, Navy and Air Force personnel upon graduation from Nuclear Power Plant Operators Course at Ft. Belvoir, Va. Graduation marked end of year-long schooling. The class was 15th to graduate since course began in 1958.

FIRST MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS Group, Clark AB, Philippines, has been named winner of 1966 Air Force Communications Service Commander's Achievement trophy. Unit was cited for its outstanding contribution to success of DOD mission in Southeast Asia from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1966.

NAVAL ACADEMY MIDSHIPMEN in student chapter of American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) received first prize in annual Bendix Corp.-AIAA Student Branch National competition in February. AIAA midshipmen received a $300 prize for proposal on design and construction of a water-based two-passenger glider.

FORT HOOD'S SECOND non-divisional aviation battalion, the 268th, was formally activated at Robert Gray Army Airfield on March 14. Commanded by Maj. Frederick D. Whiting, battalion joined 55th Aviation Battalion as a Third Corps unit.

APOLLO-SATURN 204 launch vehicle will be used to put first Apollo Lunar Module on an unmanned flight this summer, NASA has announced. NASA had planned to use Apollo-Saturn 206 launch vehicle but will use 204 because it is last launch vehicle equipped with full research and development instrumentation. Objectives include data on ascent and descent propulsion systems.

SEVENTH ANNUAL Television Newsfilm Workshop, sponsored by National Press Photographers Association in cooperation with DOD and University of Oklahoma, will be held at university's Norman campus, April 24-28. Workshop is designed to improve visual news coverage of military and civilian motion picture cameramen.

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATIONS awarded to the Attack Carrier USS Coral Sea and Air Wing Two after their return in mid-March from Southeast Asia to home bases in California and Washington state. Adm. David L. McDonald, Chief of Naval Operations, noted that both carrier and air wing had won earlier commendations for operations in Southeast Asia.

AIR UNIVERSITY'S BOARD of Visitors held four-day meeting at Maxwell AFB, Ala., to examine and evaluate school's educational programs. Board recommendations were submitted to Lt. Gen. John W. Carpenter III, Air University commander, to help carry out mission of Air Force's professional educational center.

A B-52 MILESTONE was reached in March when the 1,000th Stratofortress mission was flown in support of Southeast Asia operations. The missions included more than 8,000 sorties to deliver 173,000 tons of high-explosive bombs. In addition, 32,000 KC-135 refueling sorties were flown in support of B-52 and fighter operations.

PROCUREMENT ACTION TO support long leadtime requirements for Army's new AH-1G "HueyCobra" armed helicopter was announced in St. Louis by Army Aviation Materiel Command. Initial funding of $2 million was obligated for new procurement action. Modification of an existing contract with Bell Helicopter Co., Ft. Worth, Tex., was written authorizing production of 210 additional aircraft. Actions will double number of AH-1Gs ordered in November 1966, and will bring to 530 number now under production contract.

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Background for Commanders

U. S.-SOVIET CONSULAR TREATY

On 16 March 1967 the U. S. Senate ratified the U. S.-Soviet Consular Convention, which had been signed in Moscow on 1 June 1964 by U. S. Ambassador Foy D. Kohler and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko. The basic purpose of the Convention is to permit the United States promptly to protect and assist its citizens when they are arrested and detained in the Soviet Union. In a statement issued on 16 March, President Johnson expressed the hope that the Soviet Government will now move promptly to ratify the Convention. The following are excerpts from a recent statement made by Secretary of State Dean Rusk.

- This Convention was proposed by the United States.
- It is a step carried to agreement in 1964 after 5 years of painstaking effort.
- It is a step proposed and endorsed by 3 Administrations representing both political parties.
- It is a step which, at little cost, is very much in the national interest.

Protect American Citizens

This Convention would give American citizens in the USSR more rights than any Soviet citizen possesses—rights which any Soviet citizen already has in our open society without such a treaty.

Quantitatively, the importance of the protections this Convention would afford to Americans increases every year. The number of Soviet tourists and visitors to this country is small and has remained fairly constant in the past 5 years. It was about 900 in 1962 and about 900 in 1966. But the number of American tourists and visitors in the USSR has increased steadily during the same period. In 1962, 10,000 American travelers went to the USSR. In 1966 there were 18,000.

A sharp increase in U. S. visitors to the USSR in 1966 was largely attributable to heavy U. S. attendance (3,074) at a number of major international conferences.

Qualitatively, this Convention would allow the U. S. to take protective action in those incidents when American citizens have been detained for long periods with little or delayed assistance from their Government.

To those accustomed to the vigilance of American courts in protecting the right of arrested individuals, it is jarring to recognize that, under Soviet law, access to an arrested person can be refused while the case is under investigation—for a period of weeks or even longer, up to 9 months. There has not even been a requirement that the U.S. must be notified of an arrest.

Such treatment is not only unjust by our standards but must have wounding impact on the individuals involved. Without rules of the kind this Convention provides, the arrest of an individual quickly becomes an international incident.

In just the 30 months since the Convention was signed, we know of at least 20 cases where Americans have been detained by the Soviet police. Some of these Americans acted foolishly—or worse. Some committed acts which are regarded as criminal under Soviet but not American law; some apparently committed acts which would be criminal in both countries. In none of these cases did the Soviet authorities adhere to the standards of notification and access provided for by this Convention.

I cannot assure you that, if this Convention had been in force, we would have prevented the tragic outcome of the Mott case or prevented these other Americans from being jailed. **But the standards provided by this Convention would have greatly assisted us in our efforts to assure them the protection that is normal among most states. Equally important, [it] could well have eliminated the need for continuous and insistent high-level diplomacy.**

Re-establishment of Consulates

This Convention is not necessary to authorize the re-establishment of consulates between the U. S. and the USSR. The President's foreign policy responsibilities under the Constitution already give him the authority to permit the establishment of foreign consulates in this country. This Convention would, however, provide the basis on which we could prudently re-establish consulates on a reciprocal basis.

The anticipated increase in the number of Soviet personnel in this country is small. At present there are 1,018 Soviet citizens in this country, 452 of them with diplomatic immunity. One Soviet consulate would add only 10 or 15. The immunity provisions of this Convention would give these added representatives no exemptions which Soviet diplomatic personnel do not already have—and in fact would provide less, since they would not be immune from civil action.

We should be mindful, too, of the Convention's place in our over-all relations with the Soviet Union. As President Johnson said in his State of the Union Message to the Congress, "Our objective is not to continue the cold war, but to end it."

I should like to reiterate our national policy of expanding our contracts with the USSR so as to end the mutual isolation of our two societies. Increased contacts can reduce misunderstandings between our two countries, and lead, in time, to international cooperation in areas where we are able to find common interests and mutual advantage.

Defense Dept. Revises Reserve Enlistment Policy

Defense Department has revised reserve enlistment policy to give priority for enlisting non-prior service personnel in reserve components to individuals between the ages of 17 and 18½.

Deputy Defense Secretary Cyrus R. Vance directed the new policy in response to President Johnson's recent message on Selective Service.

The presidential message said, in part, "Give priority to Reserve enlistees who are under draft age (17-18½ years of age) to encourage a maximum number of volunteers who are not immediately draft liable."

The new policy will become effective May 1.

Under this program an individual may fulfill his military obligation by enlisting in a unit of the Ready Reserve, serving an initial tour of active duty for training for a period of not less than four months and participating satisfactorily in the Ready Reserves for six years.

Reserve unit commanders can enlist some older non-prior service personnel only if younger men are not available and only if the specific position for which an older man is being enlisted has been unoccupied for not less than 30 days.

AF Judge Advocate General Rules on Academy Eligibility

The Air Force Judge Advocate General has ruled that Public Law 89-650 makes sons of all armed forces career members eligible to compete for attendance at Service academies under Presidential quota.

This pertains to both regular and reserve members.

The Judge Advocate General held that the intent of the law is to include the sons of Reserve members—provided that the parent is on active duty, other than for training, and has, upon the date of selection by the President, completed eight years of continuous active duty.

MUSEUM OPENS—Col. Raymond O. Miller, Post Engineer, cuts the ribbon to open the John F. Kennedy Center for Special Warfare Museum after recent renovations. Assisting Colonel Miller is Brig. Gen. Albert E. Milley, commanding general of the center.

Army Merges DA Finance, Comptroller's Offices

Army is merging its Office, Chief of Finance, with the Office, Comptroller of the Army, for more efficient and effective use of OCA resources. The merger is to be completed May 1.

Result of the consolidation is a single DA staff element for financing and accounting matters in the new Office, Chief of Finance Accounting. Separate staff elements had caused fragmentation of the functions, responsibilities and resources within OCA, Army officials said.

Among other merger considerations was a substantial reduction of Chief of Finance functions in the 1962 Army reorganization.

Proposed staffing of the new office is 22 military and 122 civilian employees. This will result in the planned release of one military and four civilian personnel. They will be given priority consideration for other Army staff vacancies, and if necessary, for vacancies throughout DOD.

Air Force Requires 360 More Instructor Pilots

Air Force will require about 36 additional instructor pilots to mee increased pilot quotas during FY69.

The FY69 new pilot quota is 3,481 compared to 3,252 in FY68 and 2,98 in FY67.

About 600 instructor pilots are no required for the training annually.

Nearly half of the 600 are obtaine from the Air Training Command undergraduate pilot training program The remainder come from other commands.

Officials said an increasing numbe of overseas returnees are becomin interested in filling instructor pilo assignments. Such an assignment i normally a three-year tour at th same base.

'Caseless' Ammunition Under Army Research

The Army is doing research on new type of ammunition for sma arms and automatic cannons. Th new ammunition has no metal ca to be ejected.

This "caseless" ammunition's onl metal is in the projectile. The pr pellant and primer assembly burn u when the round is fired.

Army's research is in an earl stage, but thousands of such roun have been fired.

Studies will continue for improvin production methods, reducing fir hazards and developing new weapon to use the new ammunition.

Marine Camp Butler Praised For Accident Prevention Rate

Marine Corps base Camp Smedle D. Butler has been cited by Gen. Wa lace M. Greene Jr., Commandant o the Marine Corps, for its outstand ing achievements in accident preve tion during 1966.

Military personnel at the Okinaw based camp reported a total of 8 million man-hours in industrial oc pations without a disabling injury.

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